



LESSON 23

2 John

1. As you reflect on **1 John** and its many encouragements and warnings, what life lesson or spiritual truth stands out and why does the letter speak to you at this time in your life?
2. Ask God to open your spiritual eyes to see the truths contained in this second letter from John, then read and listen to **2 John**. Note some of the similarities between statements and opinions contained in **2 John** and those in **1 John**. What seems to be the essence of the problem that John is addressing in **2 John**?
3. From **vi**, how does John identify himself and why might that be important given the problem he addresses? Who is the letter's recipient? *Note*: It is not clear whether the recipient is an individual or a particular church congregation.
4. John is focused on truth and love in this letter.
 - a) What are some of the qualities of the truth according to **v2-3**?

- b) From **V3**, how are grace, mercy and peace related to truth and love? Why do you think we need both truth and love as Christians?
5. a) John speaks of walking in the truth and walking in love in **V4-6**. Describe what it looks like to walk in truth and how that differs from walking in love. Feel free to refer to other Scriptures that come to mind.
- b) What has the Father commanded His people? Discuss the relationship between love and obedience. For a more complete understanding, read **Romans 13:8-10** and **Galatians 5:14**.
6. Jesus and the writers of the New Testament often warn about the wrong doctrine taught by deceivers and false teachers who confuse believers and stir up controversy.
- a) Based on **2 John 7-11**, of which false teaching or heresy does John want his readers to be wary? See also **1 John 4:2-3**.
- b) Read the verses below and find something in each that will help you develop a plumb line against which the teaching of Biblical truth can be measured:
- **Romans 16:17-18**
 - **Galatians 1:6-9**
 - **1 Timothy 4:1-2**
 - **2 Peter 2:1-3**
 - **1 John 2:22-23**

7. What is being prohibited in **2 John 10-11** and why is this so important to the spread of the gospel? *Note: teachers/evangelists traveled from place to place sharing the gospel and depended on the church community for housing and provisions.*

8. Without referencing any particular faith tradition, what specific false or deceptive doctrine have you seen mislead seekers or create conflict within the church? Explain the truth that counters that false doctrine.

9. **LIVING AS STRANGERS: OBEDIENT**

"And this is love: that we walk in obedience to His commands." **2 John 6a**. Pastor Eugene Peterson calls the Christian faith "a long obedience in the same direction." This kind of obedience is not just one of duty. Spend some time meditating on **1 John 2:5, 5:3** and **Isaiah 48:17-19**.

Where are you finding it difficult to persevere in your obedience to Jesus's commands or His teaching? Ask someone you trust to hold you accountable in your desire to be obedient, and not just to appear obedient, but to maintain an attitude of joyful submission in love to His commands or teaching.

NAME

PRAYER REQUEST